

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 00983 150200Z

61

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 OIC-04 ACDA-19 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

AEC-11 OMB-01 DRC-01 /168 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2494
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 0983

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, GR

SUBJECT: CSCE: YUGOSLAV PROPOSAL RE MINORITIES

REF: STATE 26731

1. PAPAIOANNOU (FIRST POLITICAL DIRECTORATE - EASTERN EUROPE) REQUESTED POLITICAL COUNSELOR TO CALL TODAY. PURPOSE OF CONVERSATION WAS YUGOSLAV PROPOSAL RE MINORITIES AT CSCE.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD RECEIVED REPORT OF NOMIKOS/ CHURCHILL CONVERSATION BASED ON INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL. PAPAIOANNOU EXPLAINED THAT NATO GROUP HAD ALREADY DISCUSSED YUGOSLAV PROPOSAL AT MEETING JANUARY 24, AT WHICH TIME GOG REP HAD PROPOSED MATTER BE DEALT WITH PROCEDURALLY IF POSSIBLE BY POINTING OUT IT BELONGED IN THIRD RATHER THAN FIRST COMMITTEE. ALTHOUGH GREEK POSITION WAS RECEIVED POSITIVELY, OTHER NATO DELEGATES APPARENTLY WERE UNINSTRUCTED AND MEETING DID NOT RESOLVE MATTER. ITALY HAD OPPOSED ANY
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 00983 150200Z

DISCUSSION OF MINORITY PROBLEMS IN CSCE ON BASIS BILATERAL

AGREEMENT WAS PREFERABLE AS IN ALTO ADIGE CASE; FRENCH AND BRITISH ALSO OPPOSED DISCUSSION. ACCORDING TO PAPAIOANNOU, SIMILAR PROPOSAL BY YUGOSLAVS HAD BEEN SUCCESSFULLY SIDETRACKED AT RECENT UNESCO CONFERENCE IN BUCHAREST. HE SAID YUGOSLAVS HAD CIRCULATED NEW AND STRONGER TEXT AT GENEVA FEBRUARY 13 WHICH REFERRED TO NEED TO DEAL WITH MINORITIES ON BASIS OF PRINCIPLES OF BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS, AS WELL AS OTHER UNSPECIFIED ARRANGEMENTS, AND PROHIBITING ANY MEASURES, RESULTS OF WHICH WOULD BE TO SUPPRESS MINORITY RIGHTS. GREEK ESTIMATE WAS THAT BELGRADE UNDERSTOOD PITFALLS IN PROPOSAL BUT BECAUSE OF ITS OWN INHERENT WEAKNESS MUST DEFER TO COMPONENT YUGOSLAV REPUBLICS WHOSE INTERESTS WERE DIRECTLY INVOLVED.

3. PAPAIOANNOU TOLD POLITICAL COUNSELOR THAT MATTER HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH TURKISH AMBASSADOR IN ATHENS WHO HAD SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED GOG THAT ANKARA HAD INSTRUCTED ITS TURKISH REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA TO OPPOSE YUGOSLAV INITIATIVE. HE ADDED THAT BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY BELIEVED LAUSANNE SHOULD CONTINUE TO GOVERN MATTERS INVOLVING TURKISH MINORITY IN THRACE AND GREEK MINORITY IN TURKEY. IN PARTICULAR PAPAIOANNOU EXPLAINED BOTH COUNTRIES WOULD BE CONCERNED IF OTHER MOSLEMS, FOR EXAMPLE, SOMEONE LIKE KADAFI, TOOK INTEREST IN THEIR "MOSLEM" BROTHERS IN GREECE.

4. PAPAIOANNOU BELIEVED USSR WAS OPPOSED TO YUGOSLAV INITIATIVE BUT WAS UNCERTAIN WHETHER IT COULD HOLD LINE WITH OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. HE MADE SOMEWHAT SURPRISING COMMENT BUT NONETHELESS ONE THAT MAY REFLECT VIEW OF PRESENT GOVERNMENT THAT GREECE ALSO FORESAW RISK THAT APPROVAL OF ANYTHING ALONG LINES OF YUGOSLAV PROPOSAL COULD GIVE PRETEXT FOR GREECE'S NORTHER NEIGHBORS TO ATTACK GREECE.

5. PAPAIOANNOU CONCLUDED CONVERSATION BY REPEATING HOPE THAT US WOULD SUPPORT GREEK POSITION, BOTH IN NATO CAUCUS AND IN CSCE IF YUGOSLAVS PRESS MATTER.
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